

REMARKS

Claims 3-11, 14-22 and 25-33 are pending in the application. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 9-11, 14, 20-22, 25-27, 31-33, 48 and 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to claims 3-5 and 9-11 the Examiner stated essentially that none of the claimed elements is necessarily implemented in hardware, therefore the claim is not directed towards tangible subject matter.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 3-5 and 9 claim, *inter alia*, “a pointer array coupled by a bus to the vector data file.” The “bus” as recited in claims 3-5 and 9 grounds the claims in hardware. Such a bus is not implemented in software. Further, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 elements such as the vector register file are disclosed as hardware. Therefore, claims 3-5 and 9 are believed to be directed towards tangible subject matter and are statutory.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 9. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As to claims 14 and 20-22 the Examiner stated essentially that none of the steps is necessarily implemented in hardware and further that the claims may be directed towards an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful and tangible results to form the basis of statutory subject matter.

Respectfully, claims 14 and 20-22 are directed towards a method – implementation in hardware is not relevant. Since claims 14 and 20-22 are directed to a process, a structural inquiry is unnecessary. (see *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications Inc.*, 172 F.3d 1352 (Fed. Cir. 1999)).

With respect to the claims being directed towards an abstract idea, claims 14 and 20-22 have been amended to recite a “computer-implemented method.” A computer-implemented method is believed to be statutory. Therefore, claims 14 and 20-22 are believed to be directed towards statutory subject matter. The Examiner’s reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As to claims 25-27 and 31-33, the Examiner stated essentially that the claims are not directed towards tangible embodiments.

Claims 25-27 and 31-33 are directed towards “A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for processing operations that use data vectors each comprising a plurality of data elements”

A claim to a computer readable medium encoded with functional descriptive material that can function with a computer to effect a practical application that results in a useful, concrete and tangible result is believed to satisfy Section 101. See for example, U.S. Patent 5,710,578 to Beauregard et al. Therefore, claims 25-27 and 31-33 are believed to be directed towards statutory subject matter. The Examiner’s reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As to claims 48 and 54, the Examiner stated essentially that none of the claimed elements are necessarily implemented in hardware, therefore the claim is not directed towards tangible

subject matter.

Claims 48 and 54 have been cancelled.

Claims 48, 50, 51, 54-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Karp (USPN 5,689,653) in view of Pawate et al. (USPN 5,528,550). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Karp and Pawate teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 48, 50, 51, 54-56.

Claims 48, 50, 51 and 54-56 have been cancelled.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including claims 3-11, 14-22 and 25-33, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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